MEMO ON SPECTER MEMO AND HUMES:

Harold mentions in PM I that, in his memo on his interview with Humes and Boswell, Specter says that the docs originally thought that the lung bruises were the result of the tracheotomy. He, Harold, goes on to point out that during his testimony, Humes says that they were able to ascertain with absolute certainty that the bullet caused these. He takes this as perjury and accusee (to my recollection) Specter of subborning it. While I may have misunderstood what Harold was saying, I think that it is entirely possible that Specter misconstrued what the docs told him and reflected this in his memo. While this may mean that Humes was telling the truth, it still indicates that to Specter's understanding, Humes was lying and he allowed him to do this.

There is, however, somethigg else in the Specter memo which Harold missed and which indicates that Humes did not perform as Specter expected him to during his testimony. Specter writes in the memo that he showed Humes the Parkland docs reports which described the trachea wound as ragged and states that the docs said that this would be more consistant with exit than with entrance. During the testimony on two occasions (see 2H 362, 364) Specter gets Humes tottalk about these reports and is obviously leading him on to say what is reflected in his memo. Finally, at 2H364 he gets down to this with Humes and directly asks him if the ragged description would bear on whether neck wound was entrance or exit. Humes conceeds that it is possible exit but cautions Specter that the trachea is a cartilaginous substance which, unless very carefully incised, will appear ragged when cut.

What do you make of this? To me, it shows that Humes did not perform as Specter apparently expected him to as reflected in the pre-testimony interview. However, I could be over-estimating this.

Howard Roffman
3/11/70